

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01

USIE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 OMB-01

EB-07 COME-00 /077 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SE:HEKIRBY:VF

APPROVED BY EUR:AAHARTMAN

EUR/SE:NCLEDSKY

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 164223

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, TU

SUBJECT: HOUSE COMMITTEE ACTION ON LEGISLATION TO LIFT

TURKISH ARMS EMBARGO.

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN INVITED TURKISH AMBASSADOR
ESENBEL TO DEPARTMENT JULY 11 TO COMMENT ON BILL TO RELIEVE
TURKISH EMBARGO WHICH WAS VOTED OUT OF HOUSE INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS COMMITTEE EARLIER IN THE DAY (TEXT OF BILL BEING
SENT SEPTEL). HARTMAN EMPHASIZED THAT WHILE COMMITTEE
BILL--WHICH INCLUDES AN AMENDMENT INTRODUCED BY CONGRESS-
MAN FRASER PROHIBITING NEW FMS CONTRACTS FOR TURKS UNTIL
PASSAGE OF FY 76 FMS LEGISLATION -- MAY NOT BE ALL WE
WOULD WISH, IT WOULD CONSTITUTE, NONETHELESS, A SUB-
STANTIAL LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO. HE NOTED THAT THE BILL
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WOULD PERMIT:

- (A) SHIPMENT OF ITEMS IN FMS AND COMMERCIAL SALES PIPE-LINE TOTALING ABOUT \$185 MILLION;
- (B) NEW COMMERCIAL PURCHASES OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT;
- (C) USG ISSUANCE OF LICENSES FOR TRANSPORT OF EQUIPMENT TO TURKEY; AND
- (D) US APPROVAL OF THIRD COUNTRY TRANSFERS WHERE FMS NOT INVOLVED.

THE BILL WOULD, HOWEVER, PRECLUDE ANY FMS CASH SALES, CREDIT SALES, OR GUARANTEES UNTIL PASSAGE OF FY 76 FMS LEGISLATION.

2. ESENBEL SAID THAT HE HOPED ADMINISTRATION WOULD WORK TO DEFEAT FRASER AMENDMENT. OTHERWISE, HE FELT THAT OPPONENTS OF BILL WOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO WEAKEN IT EVEN FURTHER DURING FULL HOUSE DEBATE NEXT WEEK (NOW TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR JULY 17). HE ALSO NOTED THAT PREVIOUS CREDIT ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN USEFUL TO TURKEY AND SAID HE CONSIDERED ITS RESTORATION IMPORTANT. HE WAS FURTHER CONCERNED THAT SOME NECESSARY SPARE PARTS FOR TURKISH EQUIPMENT MIGHT BE AVAILABLE ONLY FROM USG SOURCES, FOR WHICH TRANSACTIONS WOULD BE PROHIBITED BY FRASER AMENDMENT.

3. HARTMAN REPLIED THAT WITH HOUSE ACTION AND PROBABLE SENATE-HOUSE CONFERENCE STILL AHEAD, LEGISLATIVE PROCESS IS BY NO MEANS COMPLETE. ADMINISTRATION WILL CONTINUE TO WORK FOR VERY BEST BILL IT CAN GET. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE WILL TRY TO ELIMINATE FRASER AMENDMENT AT SOME STAGE IF THAT SEEMS POSSIBLE. IN REPLY TO ESENBEL QUESTION, HARTMAN SAID THAT WHILE BILL DOES NOT RESTORE GRANT ASSISTANCE, IT DOES NOT AFFECT PRESIDENT'S WAIVER AUTHORITY. IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT IF TURKEY CANNOT PROCURE SOME PARTICULARLY VITAL SPARE PARTS FROM COMMERCIAL SOURCES, WAIVER AUTHORITY MIGHT BE USED SOMETIME IN FUTURE.

4. HARTMAN REPEATED REQUEST FOR TURKISH MODERATION IN DAYS
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AHEAD THAT HAD BEEN GIVEN ESENBEL EARLIER IN THE WEEK BY OTHER DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS. HE SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT TURKS DO NOTHING TO ROCK THE BOAT EITHER IN CYPRUS OR VIS-A-VIS US FACILITIES WHILE CONGRESSIONAL ACTION IS IN TRAIN. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMS EMBARGO, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE164223
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: HEKIRBY:VF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750240-1121
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750760/aaaacbvo.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 MAY 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <29 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HOUSE COMMITTEE ACTION ON LEGISLATION TO LIFT TURKISH ARMS EMBARGO.
TAGS: MASS, TU, US
To: ANKARA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006